GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1320
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
RAINFALL ON AGRICULTURAL LAND
BIR SING MAHATO

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two-third agricultural land of the country depends on rain for irrigation;

(b) if not, whether the Government have made any assessment of average rainfall on such land;

(c) if so, the area of land under less rainfall zone, average rainfall zone and maximum rainfall zone, separately;

(d) whether the Government have drawn up any action plan for maximum utilization of rain water in different rainfall zones; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): 62% of net sown area of 142.00 million hectare in the country i.e. 87.5 million hectare is under rainfed agriculture.

(b) & (c): As per Indian Meteorological Department categorization the country has beengrouped into four groups based on amount of rainfall received which may be seen in the enclosed annexure. The average annual rainfall for the country as a whole is 116.3 cms.

(d) & (e): The Government has accorded highest priority to the development of rainfed agricultural lands in the country. To harvest and utilize the maximum amount of rainfall for improving production and productivity of rainfed agricultural land, several integrated watershed development projects are implemented in the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of RuralDevelopment of Government of India from Third Five Year plan onward. They include the following projects / schemes;

(i): National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas,

(ii): Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers,

(iii): Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas,

(iv): Drought Prone Areas Programme,

(v): Desert Development Programme,

(vi): Integrated Wasteland Development Project.

ANNEXURE

AREAS OF THE COUNTRY UNDER DIFFERENT RANGES OF ANNUAL RAINFALL ARE GIVEN BELOW

Average Annual rainfall	Name of region	% Area of country
Less than 40 cm.	West Rajasthan	6%

41 - 100 cm.	Plains of West U.P., Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, East Rajasthan, Gujarat Region, Saurashtra, & Kutch, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Coastal A.P. Telangana, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry, North Interior Karnataka.	43%
101 - 250 cm	Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, Gangetic West Bengal, Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, East U.P., Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, West M.P., East M.P., Vidarbha, South Interior, Karnataka, Lakshadweep.	41%
More than 250 cm	A & N Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya, Sub Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Konkan & Goa, Coastal Karnataka, Kerala.	10%

Annual Average rainfall for the country as a whole is 116.3 cms.